Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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INFO USMISSION NATO

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR DA UR

SUBJ: SAKHAROV HEARING IN COPENHAGEN SCHEDULED FOR

OCTOBER

REF A. COPENHAGEN 3317 OF 11/25/74

B. COPENHAGEN 3298 OF 11/22/74

1. THE PRESIDIUM OF THE DANISH PARLIAMENT (FOLKETING)
HAS SET THE DATE FOR THE "SAKHAROV HEARING" ON THE STATUS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE HEARING IS NAMED FOR
ITS PROPONENT, SOVIET PHYSICIST ANDREJ SAKHAROV.
ALTHOUGH THE HEARING WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO HAVE
TAKEN PLACE IN THE SPRING OF THIS YEAR, THE TIMING HAS
BEEN CHANGED TO THE FALL, SPECIFICALLY OCTOBER 17-19 AT
CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE, THE SEAT OF PARLIAMENT. THE
HEARING IS BEING SPONSORED BY THE JOINT COUNCIL OF
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EASTERN EXILES, A DANISH ORGANIZATION OF MANY YEARS

STANDING WHICH REPRESENTS EMIGRANTS FROM EASTERN EUROPEAN AND BALTIC COUNTRIES RESIDENT IN DENMARK.

- 2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THE JOINT COUNCIL OF EASTERN EXILES HAS CALLED UPON SWEIDSH PRIME MINISTER OLAF PALME TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR SAKHAROV TO ATTEND THE HEARING IN COPENHAGEN AND A GUARANTEE FOR HIS RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION. IN ADDITION, INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING HAVE BEEN SENT TO PAVEL LITVINOV AND BORIS SHAGRIN, CO-SIGNERS OF SAKHAROV'S "MOSCOW APPEAL"; THE AUTHORS ANDREW SINYAWSKI AND MAXIMOV, EDITORS OF THE EMIGRANT PAPER CONTINENT; THE POET ALEXANDER GATLICH, NOW A RESIDENT OF NORWAY; AND TO ALEKSANDER SOLZHENITSYN. IT IS FURTHERMORE EXPECTED THAT A NUMBER OF SOVIET EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL WILL WANT TO TESTIFY.
- 3. PRESS REPORTS ALSO STATE THAT IB THYREGOD, A FORMER LIBERAL MEMBER OF THE FOLKETING, HAS ACCEPTED THE POSITION OF "SECRETARY" OF THE HEARING. AS SUCH HE WILL BE IN CHARGE OF ALL ARRANGEMENTS. THYREGOD, 54, IS A WELL-REPUTED COPENHAGEN LAWYER WITH A PRACTICE THAT SPECIALIZES IN SUPREME COURT CASES. HE WAS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM 1960 TO 1971, AND AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTEE TO THE US IN 1970.
- 4. COMMENT: DESPITE THESE INDICATIONS THAT PREPARATIONS FOR THE SAKHAROV HEARING ARE PROGRESSING, THE SLIPPAGE IN TIMING IS EVIDENCE THAT THE JOINT COUNCIL OF EASTERN EXILES HAS RUN INTO SOME DIFFICULTIES. A SENIOR OFFIVIAL OF THE PARLIAMENT'S PRESIDIUM TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WAS DUE TO THE PASSIVE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY EASTERN EMIRE GROUPS. SOLZHENITSYN HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN NEGATIVE TO THE HEARING AND MANY OTHERS HAVE NOT BEEN EAGER TO TESTIFY. THE PARLIAMENTARY SOURCE IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THE HEARING WOULD HAVE TO BE CALLED OFF ENTIRELY. CROWE

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